

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3-26 and 35 without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

Sub  
K1  
D1

1. (Three Times Amended) A production apparatus for a [fluoride] crystal, said apparatus having a crucible divided [in multi-stages, to be] into a plurality of stages and used [for refining a material] in a process for refining [the] a material by adding thereto a scavenger [in the material.], wherein a lower portion of a first stage of said [multi-stages] plurality of stages is positioned to cover an upper edge of a wall portion of a second stage of said [multi-stages] plurality of stages.

[Please add Claims 36-44 as follows:]

Sub  
K1  
D2

--36. A production apparatus, said apparatus having a crucible divided into a plurality of stages, wherein a degassing hole is provided in a side wall portion of the crucible, and a lower portion of a first stage of said plurality of stages is positioned to cover an upper edge of a wall portion of a second stage of said plurality of stages.

37. The production apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein said plurality of stages is used in a sequential manner.

38. The production apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein said crucible has at least two degassing holes in said side wall portion.

39. The production apparatus according to Claim 38, wherein said crucible has a connecting hole in the bottom center portion.

40. The production apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the degassing hole has a diameter of 1 to 5 mm.

41. The production apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein said crucible has a cylindrical shape with the bottom face.

42. The production apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein said crucible has a 250 mm or more inner diameter.